



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Enjoy a Safe and Happy Fourth of July and Summer in the Parks

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA – Is a visit to the “Big Trees” or giant sequoias in your future for the holiday or during the rest of summer? Or, are you looking to “beat the heat” at a higher elevation this summer? For updated information, visit www.nps.gov/seki (especially “Plan Your Visit”).

- **Fireworks Prohibited at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks:** Visitors are welcome at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, but fireworks are prohibited for safety reasons. People in possession of fireworks in the parks are subject to a maximum fine of \$5,000 and/or 6 months in jail. To enjoy fireworks, consider attending a fireworks show in a neighboring community.
- **Fire Restrictions:** Fire danger is high, so some fire restrictions are in place for public safety. For updates: www.nps.gov/seki/naturescience/fire-restrictions.htm.

What is allowed:

- Wood or barbecue fires are allowed at all park campgrounds—*except for* South Fork Campground—www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm.
- Wood or barbecue fires are allowed at all park picnic areas-- *except for* the Ash Mountain and Hospital Rock picnic areas.
- Gas, propane, alcohol, and tablet/cube stoves are allowed at all park campgrounds and picnic areas and throughout all elevation zones in the wilderness.
- Wood fires are permitted in the parks’ wilderness above 6,000 feet, except where other year-round fire restrictions apply.

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What is not allowed:

- No wood or barbecue fires are permitted in the Ash Mountain Picnic Area, the Hospital Rock Picnic Area, or the South Fork Campground.
- No wood or barbecue fires are permitted below 6,000 feet in the parks' wilderness.
- No smoking below 6,000 feet is permitted, except within a campground or picnic area where wood and charcoal fires are allowed, an enclosed vehicle, a designated smoking area, or a building which allows smoking.
- **Campgrounds:** For a complete list of campground opening and closing dates, visit the parks' webpage at www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm or call 559-565-3341. While the majority of park campgrounds are first-come, first-serve, reservations may be available for certain campgrounds.
- **New Shuttle Stop to/from Potwisha Campground Overflow Area in Sequoia National Park:**
The Sequoia Shuttle departs from the Potwisha Campground Overflow Area hourly from approximately 7:20 a.m.-11:20 a.m. In addition, the Sequoia Shuttle departs the Giant Forest Museum hourly in the afternoon beginning at 2:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. and arrives back at Potwisha hourly from approximately 3:25 p.m.-7:25 p.m. *To reserve a ride (highly recommended), call 1-559-713-4754. Pay telephones are located next to the Potwisha Campground kiosk and Foothills Visitor Center. The cost is \$5.00 (round-trip) or \$2.50 (one-way). The fee may be paid by credit card by calling for advance reservations or by cash to the City of Visalia after riders reach the Giant Forest Museum. Without advance reservations, there may not be room on the shuttle bus for additional riders.*
- **Swimming:** While water levels are lower than normal this summer, swimming in the rivers in the parks can be dangerous. Beware of slick rocks and dangerous currents. Parents should exercise extra caution when children are near the water. Park rivers and streams are wild! Stop at a park visitor center to learn more about the latest river conditions *before* going in the water.
- **Ranger-led Programs:** For specific information about ranger-led or naturalist-led programs, visit www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/rangerprogsched.htm.

- **Roads/Parking Info:**

- The Sequoia Shuttle operates seven days a week, both inside and from outside the parks, from May 22 through September 1, 2014. *From Outside the Parks:* A round-trip ride from outside the parks costs \$15, and covers the park entrance fee. All shuttle buses are wheelchair accessible. For details and reservations for the shuttle from outside the parks, visit www.sequoiashuttle.com or call 1-877-BUS-HIKE. Once at Giant Forest Museum, you can ride the free in-park shuttle, during the same dates. *Inside the Parks:* www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/parktransit.htm.
- Due to high visitation, Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road will be closed to vehicular traffic from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, July 4-6, as it is each weekend in summer.

- **Visitor Centers:** Park visitor centers offer exhibits and films and sell books, maps, hats, postcards, etc. All purchases support the parks! Info: www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/visitorcenters.htm.

- **Food Service/Markets:** For information about hours and opening/closing dates for food service and markets inside of the parks, please visit www.nps.gov/seki/parknews/newspaper.htm. (See pages 8-9.)

- **Crystal Cave:**

- To learn more about the schedule for daily and special cave tours, visit www.sequoiahhistory.org.
- July 4th Weekend Schedule:
 - Friday, July 4 - Sunday, July 6 – from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (every ½ hour)
 - Monday, July 7 – from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (every ½ hour)
 - There will be no special tours during the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Special tours will start again on Tuesday, July 8.

- **Construction Delays Expected on Weekdays (not Major Holidays) in Sequoia National Park:**

Generals Highway Reconstruction - From early June into October, there may be delays of 15 minutes-1 hour in Sequoia National Park. Info: www.nps.gov/seki/parknews/index.htm.

- **Fee Free Days:** Have you considered coming back for a visit during one of our Fee Free Days (listed below), when you can enter Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and other national parks free-of-charge?

- August 25 - National Park Service's 98th Birthday
- September 27 - National Public Lands Day
- November 11 - Veterans Day